

Volume II 1998 Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department

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Dulles Airport firefighters and Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department's Hazardous Materials Team conducted a recent joint training drill at Dulles International Airport using a 737 propane fed simulator. (Photo by Captain David G. Lange) **Editor's Note:** Captain Lange entered this photograph in the Courier Photo Contest. Out of the 297 photographs entered, Captain Lange's photo won second place in the Color County-related category.



“...the Fire and Rescue Department must continue to seek new and innovative methods to meet future customer service demand.”

CHIEF'S NOTES

As I travel to meet with the people of our organization, I am constantly asked the question, “What’s happening?” One of my primary responsibilities is to communicate. You might think that most of my communicating involves providing verbal and written direction. As a young fire officer coming up the ranks, I viewed the job of fire chief in much the same way.

In reality, I spend the vast majority of my time listening to the personnel in our organization. I also listen to citizens, political leaders, senior staff members, and my peers. In this case, I want to make sure that I am providing you with my organizational priorities now and in the future, and what we are doing to address them. I have outlined the defining issues that warrant our attention and follow through.

Facilities - New and Existing

As we look out the next five to ten years, it is clear that service demand will change and increase. Our organizational make-up will continue to require a renewed commitment to recruit and hire minorities, including women. The population will change and demand additional services. Many of our current fire stations will be approaching the 30-year mark in 2008. The Fire and Rescue Academy is constantly overbooked and on many days does not provide the most productive training environment we should have to ensure quality instruction. Accordingly, we must plan and seek funds now to renovate our existing facilities and construct additional fire stations to ensure reasonable response times. A planned approach to long term issues can be phased in if organizations look to the future and have a plan and road map on how to address them.

Pay and Benefits

We must ensure that we remain competitive with other jurisdictions in the region. The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department strives to be a proactive, professional, and forward thinking emergency service organization that is inextricably linked to the people we serve—our customers. To meet this important goal, we must be competitive in the surrounding job market. To be competitive, we have to provide salaries and benefits that are above the mean. However, I do not necessarily support the idea of becoming the highest paid fire and rescue department in the region. On the other hand, I will not stand by and become the lowest paid department. That is unacceptable and only serves to undermine my commitment to you and the citizens we serve. Accordingly, I strongly pushed for a regrade of our entry and first line firefighter level positions. We must continue to watch out for changes in pay and benefits in the region and be willing to innovate and find new ways to improve our current pay structure.

Quality Service

Our organization must continue to seek new methods to improve our service and seek value added services to our customers. Quality services are driven by providing relevant and challenging training programs, taking advantage of emerging technology, instilling a sense of determination and commitment in organizational members and ensuring that employees are provided with a user friendly work environment. Another key element in perusing value added quality service is connecting with the community we serve and taking advantage of unmet personal needs related to our mission.

Safety and Health

The safety and health of our personnel must continue to remain as a priority with the organization. Although we have taken positive steps to address occupational safety and health concerns, we have much more to accomplish. We are presently engaged in the design phase of installing a diesel exhaust removal system in all Fairfax County owned fire stations. We must also continue to improve and expand our occupational health and safety services provided by our Occupational Health Center. Our organization must be willing to test and acquire new technology that is designed to provide improved, safer service.

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How To Get A Canteen When You Need One

BY PATTI BLANKENSHIP

Facilities

The population of Fairfax County continues to grow by approximately fifteen hundred to two thousand residents annually. Our road network is not keeping pace with the increased traffic flow. Our population is continuing to age, placing a higher per capita service demand on our existing resources. Many of our fire stations will reach a age when renovations must occur in the near future. Accommodations for physical fitness, women's facilities, and new apparatus must be addressed. For these and other reasons, we must fund planned renovations and additional fire stations in the future.

Apparatus Replacement and Repair

In order to provide safe, up-do-date, and effective apparatus we must ensure that apparatus is replaced on a well-thought out and planned rotation schedule. We have developed a replacement plan and submitted it to the Office of Management and Budget. The plan has been accepted, however, funding for the plan continues to be a concern. We have worked hard to restructure and enhance our apparatus repair and maintenance operations. Earlier this year, we were successful in landing approval for constructing a south county maintenance shop located at the Newington EMTA shop and renovating and expanding our West Ox facility. The north EMTA repair services will be moved from the Jermantown location to the West Ox facility. Additionally, both shops will have reserve apparatus storage facilities to allow for rapid return to service when apparatus is being repaired.

Recruitment

Currently, the Department has a number of personnel who are eligible for retirement. Forecasts and attrition rates show us that we will continue to experience a shortfall of personnel if we don't have a solid plan in place. As such, I have asked the recruitment staff and the Fire and Rescue Academy staff to develop a comprehensive plan to address the potential need for large numbers of new employees in the next two to four years.

As you can see, we have numerous issues to address over the next few years. I am confident we can successfully meet the challenges that I have mentioned. My confidence comes from the fact the we are blessed with a committed, talented, and determined staff that will meet the changing needs of our organization and our community. ♦



The Centreville Volunteer Fire Department's Canteen 17 provides much needed rehabilitation for firefighters at the scene of a house fire.

How To Obtain Canteen Service

Canteens are dispatched through Public Safety Communications Center (PSCC) via alpha numeric pagers. All canteen coordinators and assistant coordinators have been issued pagers to receive dispatches. Canteens are to be automatically dispatched on all two-alarm or greater incidents. For all other incidents, the incident commander or his designee must request PSCC to dispatch a canteen unit. Canteen units are integrated into the CAD system, so the closest available unit will be dispatched to the desired location. Canteen units are operated by the following volunteer stations or their Ladies Auxiliaries: 02, 08 (housed at Station 23), 13, 17, and 22.

How Canteen Units Respond To Dispatch

Canteen personnel monitor for dispatch 24 hours a day, seven days a week, but occasionally a specific canteen unit may not be able to assemble a crew when requested. In this case, the next-due canteen unit may be dispatched. All units remain stocked and are in the ready mode, however, each unit is operated by members who must respond

from home to their respective stations upon dispatch. Additionally, canteen units must respond priority two to all incidents, and cover large first due areas, therefore, response times are lengthy. The sooner into an incident that a canteen unit is requested, the sooner the response.

What Services Canteens Can Provide

At any incident, canteens can be expected to provide hot and cold drinks and a variety of snack foods. Limited hot meals can be provided if notification is given early enough. If given the opportunity, canteen personnel can obtain supplies before arriving on an incident scene. Ideally this would be done by the incident commander when initially making the request for canteen dispatch. Once set-up, it is difficult for a canteen unit to move, but additional supplies can be requested from other canteen units or personnel. Available meals include: hot dogs, soup, pizza, deli, or barbecue sandwiches. For extended incidents, meals can be provided by the Adult Detention Center via Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department protocol. The canteens can also assist in serving these meals. ♦

Hands Across the Ocean

BY TECHNICIAN ED TEAL

In September 1997, members of OFDA-FEMA Task Force (VATF1) Technical Search Team held a two-day drill. Attending the drill were some visitors from Iceland. Team members were able to use the new Recon Search Cam made by Search Systems. The Recon Search Cam is a smaller and more compact system than the Search Cam 1000, which is currently being used by our team. Team members were also able to work with a six-sensor listening device made by Delsar, known as the Life Detector. The new Recon Camera by Search Cam and the new six-sensor Delsar Life Detector developed by Uwe Beckman (VATF2) were used exclusively during these two days. The first day participants were introduced to these tools through one-on-one instruction and by application.

The second day started with three thumpers and body parts from mannequins placed throughout the structures, grounds, and rubble pile at the training academy. The students were asked to locate and identify various objects, simulating a real experience. By the end of the day, all the thumpers had been located with the use of listening devices, and the majority of the body parts were located with the recon and search cameras. Although this was only a two-day class using the basic tools of technical search, the importance of strategy, communications, and cooperation was stressed and were key factors in success.

Because of the team's expertise, we will continue to be asked upon to assist in training new members and new teams as the number of rescue teams grow. Within our own technical search team, new systems and technology mandate that we make all technical search members current. To accomplish this, we have established informal training for Technical Search. All training hours are logged and will be on a voluntary basis. This allows us the opportunity to keep abreast of new technology and to provide valuable

input into the development of technological needs in field.

Because of our application, training, and testing with Search Systems Inc., the addition of a remote monitor on the Recon Cam is now standard equipment. Search Systems Inc. is currently developing the Search Cam 2000 with void probe and a heads-up display using our input. This provides an invaluable working relationship with manufacturers as well as input into what's practicable for our job. As a team, we must stay current with training, technological advances, and purchasing. If we are to think of ourselves as this Nation's premier provider of urban

are always a danger. Iceland's position on the Atlantic Ridge, a ridge between two continental plates, brings periodic earthquakes, floods and volcanic eruptions.

Landsbjorg boasts 30 rescue teams. The teams vary in size, have different equipment, reflect local requirements, and are specialized.

A special international unit has been organized in cooperation with Landsbjorg and the Icelandic Red Cross. Its mission is to gain information and experience on earthquakes and eruption zones around the world, and provides training for rescue missions. Landsbjorg maintains ties to several organizations including the National Association for Search And Rescue (NASAR), which focuses on training and developing improved techniques for rescue work.

During the two-day class conducted in technical search, I learned of challenges we will face if we deploy to Iceland. The weather is unpredictable. It is wet, windy, and cold even in the summer. Their structures have additional reinforcement in the concrete that differs from normal structures. During our operations with the Hilti and gas powered core drills, our visitors made several comments about the concrete on the rubble pile being soft

and easy to penetrate, even the Jersey barriers. I learned their flooring and walls are several inches thicker, and roofs are metal with steel I beams that add support in the event of avalanches and heavy snow loads.

The class given to the Icelanders was also an opportunity for our own personnel to receive training with new equipment and search procedures developed for technical search. The instructors were Master Technician Dennis Fiddle, Master Technician Tom Griffin, Uwe Beckman, and myself. This class provided an opportunity for personnel to receive valuable hands-on training with invaluable opportunities for learning. ♦



One of the visitors from Iceland hones his skills on the Life Detector, a six-sensor listening device, during the two day OFDA-FEMA Task Force drill.

search and rescue, we must be trained and ready.

As a team, we must continue to be focused on the mission and task at hand—the rescue of victims.

During the last several months, our team has assisted and drilled with Iceland's rescue team, as facilitators in Landsbjorg, Iceland. We also trained with technical search at our training academy.

Iceland is a rugged but beautiful country, and weather conditions can change at a moments notice, making its terrain impassable, even when weather conditions are favorable. In winter, snow storms and avalanches

From The Editor

BY DANIEL L. SCHMIDT



I can't believe its been one year since my arrival at one of the best Fire and Rescue Departments in the country. Its been fast, furious, exciting, and a genuine honor to work hand-in-hand with the finest group of firefighters and civilians around. Early on, I set a goal of meeting and talking with every individual at all stations, and shifts—I'm almost there, I have several more Battalion Chiefs to ride with before I can check that box. While traversing the County, I've met some great people, seen outstanding effort, and have tried to listen to your ideas on how better to market the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and tell our story.

We've launched several initiatives that we hope have added value and will continue to help put us in the spotlight as one of the premier fire and rescue departments in the country. We continue to be proactive in telling our story through the news media with news releases and story ideas that include hard news, features, and human interest pieces. We've regenerated our news clip service for not only the senior staff, but for all stations—it's important that everyone sees and knows what's printed about us and around us in the daily news.

We've just completed our first annual progress report in nine years. It was an eleven month process, but well worth our effort. We hope to do another for the 1998 calendar year. At the end of May, we will be showing public service safety announcements in eight local movie theaters with 48 screens. The short public service announcements will feature seasonal safety messages with our logo prominently displayed.

We're also just finishing up on a project that has been long in coming, we hope to have an "After the Fire" brochure printed and out to you in the field sometime in June. We then will be able to hand fire victims a comprehensive document from us that tells them what to do, where and how to get help.

Finally, we're in the midst of making *Line Copy* an even more value added publication through some redesigning, tweaking, and just plain old changes. I've also made a commitment to publish *Line Copy* six times per year instead of quarterly and to put *Line Copy* online. Your next issue should reflect some of those changes.

I do want your feedback, good or bad, on anything we're doing in Public Information and Life Safety Education that piques your interest.

As one unknown source said, "we're constantly striving for success, fame, and comfort when all we really need to be happy is someone or something to be enthusiastic about." I'm truly enthusiastic about the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and all its people. ❖

Welcome Medic 407

BY PATRICIA M. BLANKENSHIP AND CAPTAIN II RANDALL J. KENNEDY

Medic 407 made its debut on February 2, 1998. Under the capable hands of Lieutenant Douglas A. Shaw and Technician David P. Tobin, M407 wound its way across the county to Fire and Rescue Station 11 for its first fill assignment. Though they responded to only one call that day, M407 became a welcome addition to the Fire and Rescue Department.

Medic 407 represents the first step in addressing peak staffing demand by the Fire and Rescue Department. Though housed at the Fire and Rescue Academy, M407 is designated as an EMS response unit only, and is therefore unavailable for academy training purposes. Assignment determinations for the unit are made by the shift deputies in conjunction with Public Safety Communications Center. While M407 generally covers for other medic units attending Operational Academy Rotations or Emergency Medical Services Continuing Education Programs, it can be dispatched to cover units involved in multi-unit Drills, or as needed anywhere in the county where a heavy call volume is occurring.

Based on data from its first two months in service, M407 has already provided ALS

coverage in over half of the county's 34 fire and rescue stations. However, it is not unusual for the crew to be redeployed to another station during the course of the day, usually about once per week.

Through March 29, 1998, M407 ran a total of 92 calls - 87 EMS calls, four suppression, and one public service. This represents an average of 2.4 calls per day. Of the EMS calls, 59 of them, or 68 percent, were dispatched as ALS events, including a double shooting in Fire and Rescue Station 26's area. Fifty-six percent of the calls resulted in transports. Transport destinations have included Mount Vernon, Bethesda Naval, Fairfax, Reston, Alexandria, Fair Oaks, Arlington,

and Northern Virginia Doctors Hospitals.

One advantage cited to working a straight day schedule is that the days go by quickly. In addition, by being the only crew to use the unit, the crew can decide what works best for them. However, on the down side, weekends also seem to go by quickly, and the stability and camaraderie of shift work is missed.

With only minimal fine tuning needed and a great effort by all involved, M407 is up and running and providing a valuable service to both the department and the citizens of Fairfax County. Welcome aboard! ❖

EMS Training Update

The development of an ALS preparatory class is underway at the Fire and Rescue Academy. The purpose of this class is to help current BLS personnel prepare for ALS training by becoming aware of the specific skills required for the ALS program entry.

The class will be offered over the summer prior to the ALS pretest, in preparation for the ALS course beginning in the Fall of 1998. The class will be conducted on an alternating schedule to accommodate both career and volunteer personnel scheduling needs. An informational bulletin will be forthcoming with details regarding sign up and other pertinent information.

A Special Thank You . . .

On June 19th of this past year my wife Anita was diagnosed with cancer (Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma). As you can well imagine we were both devastated by the news. As a result, our whole future was thrown into uncertainty. We felt isolated and alone and had no idea where to turn for answers. To magnify this already devastating situation, my wife (who is also a Fairfax County employee with the Department of Public Works) had her own medical insurance policy and would certainly exhaust all her leave during the coming months of treatment she was facing.

Faced with the possibility of the loss of her income as well as the loss of her medical coverage was overwhelming. It was at this point that I decided to discuss our situation with my shift commander and battalion chief, they suggested since she was a Fairfax County employee, we could do a leave donation for her within the Fire Department.

Having never participated, except to donate before, I didn't really know what the response would be. When the leave was tabulated we were left humbled and speechless, over 1600 hours of leave was donated to her by 72 individuals, from the rank of deputy chief all the way to the rank of firefighter. The leave was donated by people I have worked with over the last twenty years, but much of it was by people I may have worked with only once or twice while on detail or callback.

As I sat writing this letter, I tried to think of the words that would adequately express how we feel about the tremendous response we received from everyone, when the words of her department supervisor came to memory. When he called us to let us know the amount of hours that had been donated, he made the statement to her, and I quote, "I wish I were a fireman, they really stick together." I couldn't have expressed it any better myself.

Well, as I write this letter, Anita has been through eight chemotherapy treatments, along with dozens of associated tests, and it is by the grace of God, and the gifted ability of numerous doctors, that we can report that as of February 3, 1998 Anita is in remission.

It has been a long and difficult nine months, but because of our faith in God and the support and encouragement of our families and so many in the Fire Department, our future looks very bright.

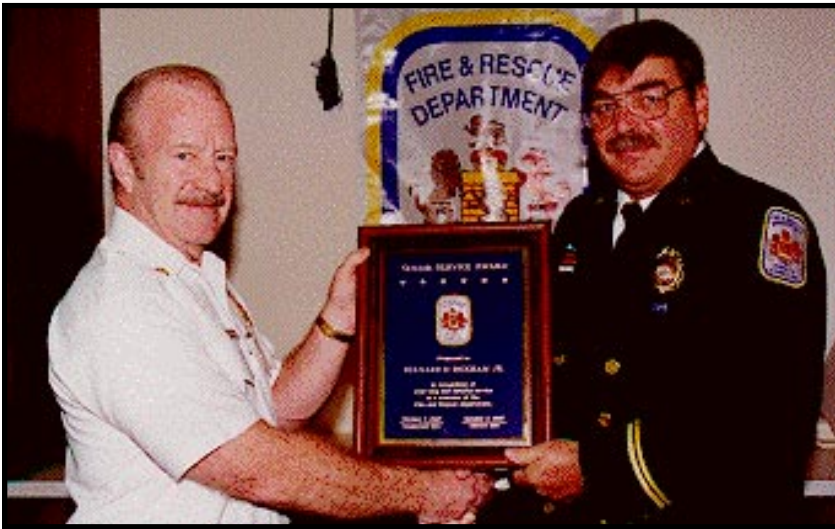
We would like to at this time sincerely thank everyone from our heart for all the support, for without it, I don't think we could of gotten through this. We would especially like to thank Captain II Chuck Jacobi (19-A) and Battalion Chief Chris Hunter (Batt. 5-A) for all their help and support, everyone in the department should be so lucky to work with supervisors like you. We would also like to thank Master Technician Kenny Sanders (35-A) and his wife Debbie who checked on us daily to see if we needed anything, you will never know what that meant to us.

In closing, I would just like to say how fortunate I am to be able to work along with such caring people, I doubt anyone of us could find another job where the caring and support of coworkers is so humbling.

Sincere thanks,
Lieutenant Danny and Anita Whitmer

Thirty Years On The Line

BY CAPTAIN DAN BICKHAM



Chief Glenn A. Gaines presents Captain Danny Bickham (right) a plaque to honor his thirty years of service with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department.

On October 2, 1997, I celebrated my 30 anniversary with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. The day before, I was honored by Senior Staff and presented a beautiful "Senior Service Award" by the Fire Chief. After hearing the compliments, I left feeling like I have made a contribution to a great fire department. Many of the compliments I received in reference to my career are a direct result of the competent and dedicated firefighters who have worked on my shift during these 30 years. There are too many people to identify, but I thank all of you for helping me look good.

Most of these people have also made a very rewarding career for themselves. If I was asked to offer suggestions to having a long and rewarding career I would have to start with this advice: there is no "I" in Team.

Maintain a good and close relationship with your shift mates and remember that your spouse and family are what you're really working for. The needs of your family must come first. I have a wonderful wife, Janet, who has endured all of the negative and positive aspects of my career with me.

Keep your spouse informed, it is amazing how many spouses do not have any idea of what we do in our profession. I have always

had many family shift functions to help with building the bond that firefighters and their families have. God gave you two ears with something in the middle to help you think. When processing the input, let information go in one and out the other, store the pertinent information, and act when necessary. A seven-second pause can often prevent many problems.

Remember we are here to provide a service to the citizens. Most of the time, we are the only place they can turn to for help. Regardless of how your day is going, we must provide the most competent and quickest service possible. If you are not dedicated to this, do yourself and your peers a favor and find another job. A recently retired firefighter told me that his last three years were miserable because he was always detailed and that there wasn't the camaraderie that we had when we worked together. Many times the shifts wouldn't even eat together, and other than training, they hardly communicated in the station. It would be my hope

after hearing this that the chiefs and officers involved in details would at least allow senior employees to work with their own shifts in their last years rather than shuffling them all over the county. That would help team building and allow the senior team member to retire with a better feeling. I have always had good team members.

Finally, Gery Morrison and the 18-B team were able to pull off the ultimate surprise. On October 2, 1997, they were able to pull off a surprise party for me. It was excellent. After a lot of secret communication, months of planning and help from the hill, they treated me like a King.

Speaking of the King. Elvis did pay me a visit that evening and the "Tribute To Dan" was great. After the steak dinner, a beautiful plaque, a fantastic jacket, and an unprecedented thirty skunk salute from my favorite stooges, Elvis finished a great evening singing many of my favorite songs. Gery made sure that Janet and my kids were there to help make it a perfect evening, the two great cakes she baked also helped. Daniel and Bret said they thought Elvis was dead. I had to remind them that Coach Granville left him two tickets for every football game.

In closing, this is what this profession is all about. In thirty years, I have made many good friends, been part of many families, made a positive impact on a lot of lives, and have enjoyed every minute of it. Thanks to the 18-B Team, Janet, and all those who helped make this a wonderful occasion. ♦



"Elvis" made Captain Bickham's "Tribute To Dan" a special event, it was an evening that Captain Bickham will never forget.

HOT SHOTS



Firefighters were dispatched to Route 28 and Willard Road for a vehicle accident. After patient assessment, firefighters prepared the patient for transport by helicopter to INOVA Fairfax Hospital.



A fuel release from American Mobile Satellite Corporation into a wet weather stream, a tributary of Snakeden Branch, is the cause of this hazardous materials cleanup operation at 10802 Parkridge Boulevard.

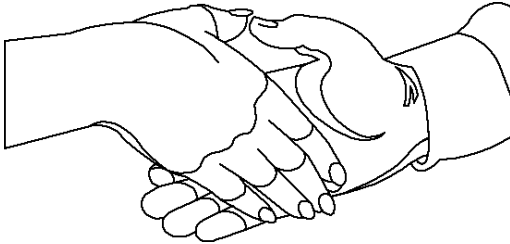


Units arrived on the scene to find heavy fire showing from the garage and kitchen area of this single-family home located at 10103 Deckhand Drive. The cause of this fire was a cooking grill being used in the driveway near the home.



Firefighters worked to contain an outdoor fire that burned about two acres near Chalet Woods Park in the Centreville area.

Awards & Presentations



Captain Richard Yuras receives a Career Achievement Award for his dedicated and enthusiastic service while filling in as EMS I-B for 18 months. Shift members of Station 31-B look on as Battalion Chief Leonard Murry presents the award.



Battalion Chief Bill Bullock (Batt. 5-B) presents the crew from Engine and Medic 22-B with Unit Citations for their outstanding performance on January 16, 1998 at Cameron Brown Court. The unit was dispatched for a shooting. The first arriving units found an unconscious pregnant female suffering from a gunshot wound. Unit personnel initiated cardiopulmonary resuscitation in an effort to save the unborn child. The teamwork displayed by the unit personnel on this incident helped ensure that a cesarean section could be performed at the hospital. Pictured from left to right: Battalion Chief Bill Bullock, Lieutenant Scott M. Smith, Firefighter Barrett E. Gibbs, Technician Dovel C. Gilmore, and Technician Charles L. Collier.



Deputy Chief Clark O. Martin (A-Shift) and Battalion Chief Chris Hunter (Batt. 5-A) present Technician Donald R. Jewett (35-A) with a Career Achievement Award for safe operation of fire and rescue vehicles and maintaining a safe and accident-free driving record.

Outstanding Performance Awards



Captain Jeffrey S. Cullers

Captain Cullers is an experienced officer who performs with confidence, knowledge, and skill. As station 34 shift leader, he and his six staff provided full-time staffing for the C-shift Hazardous Materials Team, as well as operating and supervising an engine and ambulance. As hazardous materials shift leader, Captain Cullers developed a comprehensive training program coordinating incident mitigation methodologies with the other teams. He also took the lead in managing and supporting the first Virginia Statewide Hazardous Materials Technician School, and assists his staff with their training plans.



Lieutenant Andrew L. Duke

In preparation for the 1997 Fire Prevention Week Open House at the Chantilly Fire Station, Lt. Duke demonstrated tremendous dedication to the education and entertainment of area children. He enlisted support and donations from local companies and organizations, and spent countless hours planning events that would entertain as well as emphasized the importance of fire and personal safety. Because of his enthusiasm, leadership, and direct involvement, more than 200 families attended the open house and received important life safety information.



Captain John M. Gleske

Captain Gleske has devoted an immeasurable number of hours over the years to a range of essential Department committees and projects, such as the apparatus committee and the HazMat Medical Surveillance compliance procedures. He demonstrates outstanding leadership and has a talent for at teaching and mentoring those at the beginning of their careers, having also been an instructor and supervisor at the academy. He has been instrumental in developing a number of promotional examinations, operational procedures, and training curricula.



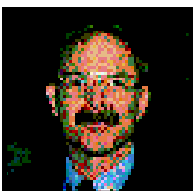
Captain William MacKay

Captain MacKay demonstrates a high level of initiative in all facets of his position, especially with the Hazardous Materials Program. He has been instrumental in raising the hazardous materials competency of his battalion by sponsoring spontaneous training sessions, coordinating battalion multi-unit drills, and making his crew and himself available for on-scene consultation. He is trained in terrorism response, and has become a Virginia instructor for that course.



Captain Chris A. Raabe, Jr.

Captain Raabe is a highly motivated station commander with a consistent record of superior performance. He has spent considerable time developing a written plan for all three shifts at his station, ensuring that the physical plant and the emergency response apparatus are well-maintained and in good working condition. His actions have prevented minor problems from becoming major, resulting in less down time and lower expenditures for repairs. When called upon, he has assumed the role of Battalion Chief with confidence.



Master Technician Dean Sherick

Master Technician Sherick's duties include: responding to complaints of hazardous materials releases and environmental crimes, the cleaning up of such sites, and the transport of hazardous materials. He played a central role in the successful investigations of the Lincolnia tire dumping case and the Lake Barton hazardous materials incident, both of which led to charges against those responsible. In the last 18 months, his workload has increased significantly, as he has also taken on the prime enforcement role in blasting and explosives, including issuing permits, conducting site inspections, and inspecting trucks.

Team Excellence Awards



On the left - Deborah J. Keys (SSD), third from left - Battalion Chief Larry B. Johnson, fourth from left - Edith V. Beitzel (FCO), Captain Dean W. Cox, and Captain Gary R. Pope (not pictured).

Burke Fire Station Team

In January 1997, a serious fire at the Burke Volunteer Fire Station (Station 14) resulted in significant damage to the building. Design and construction of a new facility would take nearly three years to complete. The station's firefighters were relocated to nearby fire stations. Returning full fire and rescue service to the Burke community was a high priority to all concerned. This team was brought together to design, procure, and erect temporary housing for displaced career firefighters and volunteers. The project was to be paid for from the existing budget without additional funds. Close coordination with state and county agencies, private vendors, and construction crews was necessary. The team was responsible for completing the entire project before winter. The team members' creativity and determination were tested both individually and collectively. Throughout the entire project, all team members maintained a sense of unity and spirit that represents the highest qualities of the County's work force. In less than a year, the temporary quarters were occupied and operational.



(Left to right): Technician Raymond M. Moats, Captain Geoffrey W. McNamara, Michael Andreano, Francis X. Burns, Technician Carmen J. DeFranks, Sr., David J. Thomas, Bergie Frazier, David Holland, Glenn Honeycutt, Captain Francis J. Teevan, and Battalion Chief Carl A. Maurice (not pictured).

"Team Omega" Sprinkler Project Team

Fire Prevention staff recognized that what was being promoted as a "minor glitch" in a national line of fire sprinklers was in fact a monumental operational fault, with some sprinklers having a 100 percent failure rate. Due to the efforts of this team, most owners of affected properties within Fairfax County have been notified. This includes county buildings, schools, hospitals, residential structures, high-rises, and fire stations. Staff alerted county, state and national organizations, including the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). They worked closely with CPSC to assist them in gathering information and providing them with sample sprinklers. CPSC has recommended a total recall of the Omega sprinkler. The team continues to visit all types of structures in the County to identify sprinkler systems.

LARGE LOSS FIRE INVESTIGATIONS

DATE	BOX	ADDRESS	TYPE	CAUSE	VALUE	LOSS	STATUS
03/18/98	1138	2825 Fairhaven Avenue	Apartment	Accidental	\$3,000,000	\$100,000	Closed
Smoking materials							
03/20/98	0595	5603 Franconia Road	Apartment	Accidental	\$150,000	\$100,000	Closed
Candle							
04/17/98	2400	8786 Walutes Court	Townhouse	Undetermined	\$235,000	\$105,000	Open
Undetermined							
04/22/98	0923	2829 Joseph Makell Court	House	Accidental	\$95,000	\$50,000	Closed
Combustibles							
04/23/98	1304	1914 Hyannis Court	Apartment	Accidental	\$1,000,000	\$250,000	Closed
Electrical							
04/25/98	1811	7316 Lee Highway T-1	Apartment	Accidental	\$210,000	\$60,000	Closed
Furnace							
04/28/98	2700	8600 Center Road	House	Accidental	\$65,000	\$50,000	Closed
Heater							
04/29/98	0810	7320 Little River Turnpike	Commercial	Incendiary	\$600,000	\$100,000	Open
Incendiary							

ARRESTS/COURT ACTIONS/PETITIONS

DATE	BOX	ADDRESS	TYPE OF FIRE	NARRATIVE
08/31/97	1012	4123 Braddock Road	Vehicle	Fire investigators charged a 34-year-old male with burning personal property. A trial date has been set for May 5, 1998.
03/17/98	0900	2501 Parker Lane	Hospital	Fire investigators charged a female with setting fire to a meeting house. The defendant in this case pled guilty to burning personal property and was sentenced to 12 months in jail, 11 suspended, and one year probation.
03/23/98	2504	1547 Chatham Colony Court	Outside	Fire investigators charged a 17-year-old male with carelessly damaging property by fire. A trial date has been set for May 22, 1998.
03/30/98	1503	4400 Stringfellow Road	School	Fire investigators charged a 14-year-old male with setting fire to a meeting house. A trial date has been set for May 12, 1998.
04/19/98	4400	724 Pine Street	Vehicle	Fire investigators charged a 34-year-old male with burning personal property. A trial date has been set for May 11, 1998.



Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department participated in a news conference to protest a U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission vote that relaxed the landmark 1972 Children's Sleepwear Flammability Standard that dramatically reduced the number of children killed or disfigured by burns associated with flammable children's sleepwear. A new coalition of burn victims, burn prevention advocates, fire chiefs, and firefighters launched a campaign urging the agency to reverse its decision. Renee Henningsen (center) and her daughter Maria Lightley (right) were speakers at the conference.



Meet Bert . . .

Investigator Terry Hall has a new charge. Bert, a two-year-old black Lab, is the department's new arson detection canine. Bert is originally from the Seeing Eye Dog Foundation and was raised by a family in North Carolina. Bert completed six weeks of imprinting training with Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms in Front Royal, Virginia. Investigator Hall and Bert then completed a six week course for handler and dog that took place at various sites in the Washington Metropolitan Area. Both trainer and the canine were required to pass practical training and Investigator Hall was required to pass a written exam.

Fond Farewell



Steven C. Beebe

Entry Date: December 11, 1972

Retirement Date: January 30, 1998

Assignments: Stations 11, 20, 11, Fire Marshals Office, and Fire Investigations.

Likes: Family type working atmosphere. Many great new friendships.

Dislikes: Promotional process and political correctness.

Will miss about the department: Everyday is a new and rewarding challenge and working with everyone.

Plans for the future: Fire investigation for an insurance company. Fish, visit old friends, do more family stuff, and golf of course!

Words of wisdom: Don't go to a job interview for practice unless you are trained and prepared to accept it. Enjoy the fire department, before you know it, retirement will arrive. Life is short and there are thousands waiting to take your place.

What got you interested in the fire service: The challenge and Brad Cochrane.

Who or what made an influence in your career? Brad Cochrane, Jim Adams, Chester "Chigger" Chinn, Warren Taylor, Terry Hall, and Ron Mastin.



Luther "Ben" Dawson

Entry Date: February 20, 1973

Retirement Date: December 19, 1997

Assignments: Stations prehire 22, recruit school, 16, 27, 23, 30, 8, and Relief 4-B

Likes: Responding to emergency calls in adverse situations, answering true emergency calls and helping people that really need our help.

Dislikes: The loss of camaraderie within the shift, responding to EMS calls. I know EMS is an important part of our department but my interest was never in EMS.

Will miss about the department: All the wonderful friends I have made, having group dinners in the fire house, doing things with shift away from work, and responding to those true emergencies.

Plans for the future: Talk my wife into relocating to Florida—continue to do HVAC work.

Words of wisdom: Know your job, do your job and give 100 percent, the pay back will come, what goes around comes around.

What got you interested in the fire service: The excitement of responding to an unknown situation.

Who or what made an influence in your career? Bill Bianchi, Junior Gaines, Jim "Pop" Whittle, Bill Timmons, Glenn Benarick, Sonny Flynn, Gary Winemiller, Bob Lanning, Chuck Jacobi, Brad Cochrane, Kenny Rhodes, Jim Irwin, Chuck Jarrell . . . too many more to name and you will all have a special place in my heart.



John Langley

Entry Date: September 11, 1972

Retirement Date: December 18, 1997

Assignments: Stations 8, 26, 11, 10, 1, and 23

Likes: The way we help all the people we come in contact with (emergency or non-emergency), team work, and the dedication of my fellow workers.

Dislikes: How a lot of the chief officers and station captains don't take the firefighters under their command seriously and act like firefighters have no intelligence.

Will miss about the department: The many special times, the fun,

difficult challenges, and the dinners that I shared with my fellow firefighters.

Plans for the future: Fire protection field or airline industry.

Words of wisdom: Always remember you do make a difference to people you know and especially the ones who will never know you personally.

What got you interested in the fire service: My father.

Who or what made an influence in your career? My father, Dan Bickham, Sonny Flynn, John Kimbal, Earl Rice, and Gary Winemiller.

Happy Anniversary

10 Years

FF Carol A. Laymon

15 Years

Tech. Linda R. Arnold
 Lt. Brian C. Brendel
 Capt. I Mark G. Brennan
 Capt. I Keith M. Dubetsky
 Lt. Eric. G. Erlendson
 Tech. Joseph P. Gorman
 Capt. I Daniel V. Gray
 Tech. Cecil L. Greene
 Lt. Wesley D. Grigg
 Tech. John C. Guy
 Lt. Keith H. Johnson
 Tech. James M. Kidwell
 Capt. II Daryl L. Louder
 Tech. James A. Minyard
 Tech. Stephen M. Schmidt
 Tech. Dean A. Scott
 Tech. Ronald B. Sydnor
 Lt. Christopher Thompson
 Tech. Jean E. Thorsell
 Capt. I Scotty L. Williams

20 Years

MTech. James M. Breslin
 Lt. Gregory A. Bunch
 MTech. Martin J. Bundrick
 Capt. I Leo J. Fayette
 Capt. I Donald P. Montague
 Capt. I Steven I. Weissman

25 Years

MTech. James H. Chapman
 MTech. Kevin L. Feik
 Capt. I John E. Hart
 BC Ronald L. Mastin
 BC Kenneth R. Nestor
 MTech. Frederick M. Nicholson
 MTech. Lawrence J. Ricciardi
 FF Cecil C. Starkey
 MTech. Jeffery L. Stocks
 Lt. James C. Tolson

30 Years

Capt. II David P. Carpenter

Top 10 Activity Report

March 1 - April 30, 1998

Ambulance

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Calls</u>
A 413	354
A 408	286
A 409	273
A 410	270
A 430	263
A 411	258
A 431	255
A 434	254
A 414	249
A 428	233

Engine Company

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Calls</u>
E 410	426
E 411	413
E 408	410
E 409	407
E 413	396
E 401	389
E 429	372
E 426	357
E 403	354
E 421	345

Rescue Squad

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Calls</u>
S 426	213
S 401	201
S 421	196
S 418	195
S 411	163
S 414	124
S 419	123

Medic

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Calls</u>
M 418	456
M 410	401
M 403	398
M 425	382
M 429	365
M 408	349
M 401	342
M 405	332
M 421	331
M 433	324

Rescue Engine

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Calls</u>
RE 425	389
RE 433	238
RE 421	6

Ladder Company

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Calls</u>
T 410	186
T 429	184
T 403	176
T 425	174
T 408	169
T 422	132
T 430	131
T 411	126
T 436	111
T 401	108

Unit Activity has been compiled from the Event History File

Glenn A. Gaines, *Fire Chief*
 Dan Schmidt, *Editor*
 Jackie Lewis, *Production Editor*
 Scotty Boatright, *Staff Photographer*

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95th Recruit School

Front row, left to right: Thomas A. Ferguson, Janet T. Norko, Timothy D. James, Keith W. Cerzullo, Cheryl L. Sherin, and Stefan C. Gansert. Rear row, left to right: Jeffrey L. Mongold, Terrance L. Fayson, Clifford A. Watson, Tie L. Burtlow, Timothy M. Kelly, Edward J. Klima, Bryan J. Nix, James R. Hill, Jose Calderon, Robert J. Pilsucki, Donald R. Crum, Michael D. Brown, Robert S. Browning, Samuel L. Porter, Richard A. Mungo, Alfred M. Doughty, and Allen R. Batson. Todd R. Gorham, not pictured.

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